

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 4 and 20 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 3, 5-10, 21, 23 and 24 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, 5-19, 21, 23, 24, 28 and 29 are pending in this application.

In the Official Action dated March 2, 2006, the examiner acknowledged that claims 11-19, 28 and 29 are allowable over the art of record and claims 2, 3, 6, 7 and 21 would be considered allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their respective base claim.

In order to put this application in condition for allowance, applicants have amended claims 6 and 21 to include the limitations of their respective base claims, namely 4 and 20. Accordingly, claims 2, 3, 5-10, 23 and 24 were amended to reflect proper dependency from newly independent claims 6 and 21.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

In the Official Action dated March 2, 2006, claims 4, 5, 8-10, 20, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,901,485 to Menchetti et al.


Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection based on Menchetti et al. is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 4 and 20. As previously mentioned, the limitations set forth in these claims were incorporated into claims which the Examiner indicated contain allowable subject matter.

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Reply to Office Action of March 2, 2006

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the claims as amended and request that the 102(b) rejection based on Menchetti et al. be withdrawn. It is also requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below should this response not be deemed to place the application in consideration for allowance.

8/2/06
Date

Respectfully submitted,



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